

# HOWNIKAN

## PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

Vol. 16, No. 9

Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe

September, 1994

## Health care concerns addressed at meeting

By WAYNE TROTTER

The Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe Business Committee delayed endorsing a Chickasaw takeover of Carl Albert Indian Hospital in Ada because the Chickasaws wouldn't give formal assurances Potawatomis will always continue to be served.

But the Potawatomi governing body never had any intention of threatening health care now being received at the hospital by Potawatomis and adopted an endorsement resolution in plenty of time to make sure that doesn't happen, a group of dissident tribal members was told at an August 25 Business Committee meeting.

Business Committee Chairman John A. Barrett Jr. told the group of about 20 concerned members he was still uncomfortable with the endorsement and was afraid the hospital could legally quit serving Potawatomis after 40 Potawatomi in-patient days are logged in a fiscal year. The Chickasaw Tribe is assuming control of the Indian Health Service hospital under the Indian Self-Determination Act and when the Potawatomi Business Committee adopted

its resolution on August 10, all area Indian tribes had given one-year endorsements.

"This is the most inherently unfair compact I have ever seen," Barrett said of the self-governance agreement which will transfer the hospital from the Indian Health Service to the Chickasaws in October.

Barrett explained that while the Chickasaws wanted a formal resolution from the Potawatomi governing body endorsing the transfer, Chickasaw Gov. Bill Anoatubby wouldn't discuss giving the Potawatomis a formal resolution stating his tribe's commitment to meet historic federal requirements to treat all Indians at the health facility. Barrett said Anoatubby offered to write a letter to that effect, so Barrett offered to write a letter of endorsement. That didn't satisfy Anoatubby, Barrett said.

"My first reaction was that we would be very glad to give a resolution of support if they gave us one back which said there would be no reduction of service to Potawatomis," Barrett commented. He said that



Mildred Flynn, Johnny Flynn And Ruby Withrow Were Among The Tribal Members Who Attended Business Committee Meeting To Discuss Health Care

under a formula worked out in connection with the transfer, Potawatomi rights were determined by past usage of the hospital despite the fact that it is 40 or more miles from areas in which there are large concentrations of Potawatomis. That formula relied on records showing Potawatomis used about 40 in-patient days a year at Carl Albert.

Barrett said under the formula, the Potawatomis

were faced with a choice of continuing to participate at Carl Albert or taking \$160,000 and losing those rights. He said the Chickasaws had a \$23 million contract and the Potawatomi share is only \$160,000. Services offered all other tribes excluding the Chickasaws come to less than a million dollars, Barrett said. The hospital is located in Chickasaw territory.

"Once they reach 40, I think we're in trouble," said

Barrett. "I did my best. We had our choice of taking \$160,000 and not getting any services.

"You guys may have heard something entirely different. You may have a different perspective. You may know something I don't know."

Barrett said he felt it was a sound strategy to hold the endorsement back as long as the Business Committee could in an attempt to get the Chickasaws to reciprocate with a resolution stating their determination to serve Potawatomis. When other tribes gave their endorsement and it became clear the Chickasaws weren't going to reciprocate, Barrett said the Business Committee adopted its resolution and tried to protect tribal members with its language and language in a letter to Dr. Robert Harry, director of the Indian Health Service office in Oklahoma City.

But Ruby Withrow, a Potawatomi who works at the Ada hospital, said she believes the Chickasaws have "a total commitment to provide care and to add to those services and provide

Continued on page 12

## Tribe awarded grant to refurbish church building

A federal grant of \$400,000 will enable the Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe to renovate a former church building for use in a substance abuse program—and may even provide badly needed shelter for battered women and children.

Tribal Health Services Director Joyce Abel said that the tribe "graciously allowed me to apply for

HUD (the federal Housing and Urban Development program) money to refurbish the building." Her application was approved, the architect has been lined up, and work will soon begin on the former Maranatha Baptist Church building just south of the tribal complex on Gordon Cooper Drive. The tribe acquired the property earlier this year.

When the work is completed, the tribe will lease

the building to the Native American Center Of Recovery (NACOR), a substance abuse program currently housed in a building just south of the Canadian River bridge on Gordon Cooper Drive. NACOR is an intertribal program offering day hospital and out-patient services to Native Americans over 18 years of age who have substance abuse problems.

Abel, who is chairman of the board which oversees

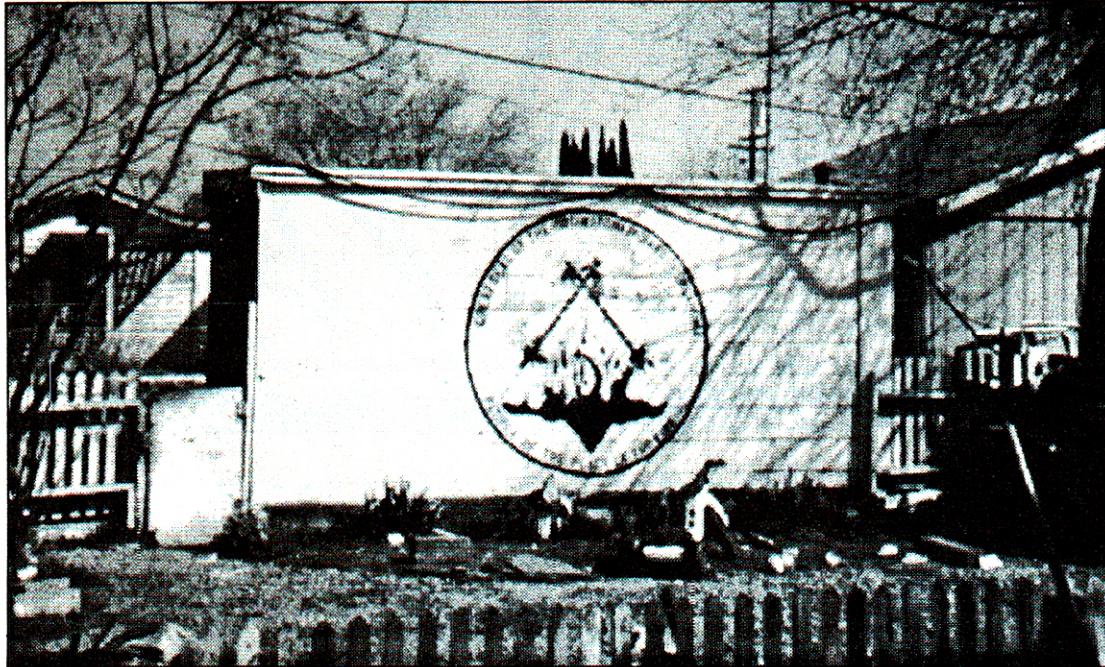
NACOR operations, said the five area tribes, which include the Absentee Shawnees, Iowas, Kickapoos and Sac & Fox in addition to the Potawatomis, were originally part of the project, but the Absentee Shawnees and Kickapoos have since pulled out. "Actually, it's been in the community for years," she said. "It used to be called Indian Action."

Work on the new facility should be completed by

March, Abel said. When it is ready, NACOR will be able to offer in-patient services as well, "with emphasis on preserving the family unit," she stressed, adding that NACOR has acquired a state program for women and is looking at the possibility of offering shelter space for women and/or children who need somewhere to go.

NACOR currently serves about 50 people a month.

# TRIBAL TRACTS



## Telling The World

Residents of Stockton, California, are enjoying a billboard-sized rendition of the Potawatomi Tribe's People of the Fire logo, thanks to the work of Robert Eugene Yoachum Jr., a tribal member who drew five-foot-tall artwork on the side of his garage freehand. The artist is the son of Renamae Lively and the great-grandson of Florence Willmett.

## CASA program needs volunteers to work with Indian children

Cedar Lodge Tribal Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program Director, Sharon Cameron, asks Oklahomans to speak up for Native American children. Until recently children caught in the tribal court system have had no advocate. Each adult involved in the case may have a lawyer and the tribe has a lawyer but there has been no one whose sole and primary concern is the best interest of the child.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program trains volunteers to be appointed by the Judge to represent children involved in court cases. The CASA gets to know the child, interviews parents and foster parents and anyone else in a position to know what is happening with the child. The trained citizen volunteer provides information to the judge, makes recommendations on what they believe is in the child's best interests and monitors the case ensuring that it is brought to a swift and appropriate conclusion.

CASA volunteers are provided over 16 hours of training on topics such as the dynamics of abuse and neglect, the court system, community services and interviewing skills.

Cedar Lodge Tribal Court

CASA Program is beginning to work with the tribal courts in the Central Oklahoma area which includes: Absentee Shawnee, Citizen Band Potawatomi, Iowa, Kickapoo, and Sac & Fox tribes.

If you would like an application and more information about the Cedar Lodge CASA Program and its upcoming fall training, contact Sharon Cameron, 1901 S. Gordon Cooper Dr., Shawnee, OK 74801 or call (405) 878-9303.

## Tribal member to perform at Texas fair

PIECES will officially open its third exciting season by performing in the Showplace Theater at the State Fair of Texas on Saturday, Oct. 15, at 8 pm. Continuing with our winter tradition, An Evening of PIECES will be presented Nov. 19-20 at 8 pm at Danse En L'air, 9205 Skillman, #123, Dallas. Ballet, jazz, and modern works choreographed by local choreographers Christie Browning, Terry Hefner, Michele Manley, Maureen Norvell, and tribal member J. Davis Hobdy will perform. For tickets and other information contact 214-601-9832.

## Tribe okays road project

The Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe has approved a memorandum of agreement between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Pottawatomie County Commissioners for an \$1.1 million project to improve four miles of EW 118, also known as Hardesty Road or Rock Creek Church Road.

Tribal Chairman John A. Barrett Jr. signed the agreement Aug. 22, just a few days after the commissioners and BIA area engineer Paul Henderson signed the document. The agreement calls for the tribe, through the BIA, to provide up to \$800,000 for the project, with the county performing the work and providing the remainder of the funds, estimated at \$300,000.

EW 118 is the county road on which Fire Lake Entertainment Center, Health Services and other tribal property is located. Much of that road has recently been resurfaced thanks to tribal financial support. The section covered in this agreement is the four miles between NS 344 and NS 348, which is also Hwy. 9A.



## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

**By J.D. Colbert**

During the August 1994 Business Committee meeting there was much discussion of the compacting, by the Chickasaw Nation, of the Carl Albert Regional Indian Health Service Hospital located at Ada, OK. Compacting is a process whereby an Indian tribe takes over and assumes a service or function that had been administered by a federal agency. The Chickasaw compact is to begin on October 1, 1994.

As part of its compacting process with the IHS, the Chickasaws solicited resolutions of support from the governing bodies of the various tribes in the area. Our tribe indicated its willingness to do so as long as the Chickasaws would provide, in return, a resolution stating that there would be no diminution of the quantity or quality of services to the Potawatomi and other patients as a result of the Chickasaws' takeover of the Carl Albert facility. The Chickasaws refused to provide the requested resolution.

Because of the Chickasaws' refusal to document, by resolution, an unequivocal commitment to at least maintain the same level and standard of health care as provided by the IHS, the leadership of the Potawatomi met with both the Area Director and Assistant Area Director of the Oklahoma City IHS Area Office to discuss how the matter could be resolved. We were informed by the IHS that the Chickasaw compact was essentially a "done deal," with or without the resolution of support from the Potawatomi. Further, we were told that the Potawatomi could either provide the resolution of support to the Chickasaws or, if no resolution were provided, we would face the prospect that enrolled Potawatomi could no longer use the Carl Albert facility on an inpatient basis beginning on October 1, 1994.

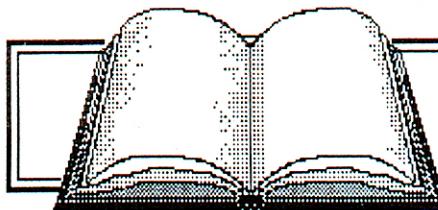
Given these alternatives, the Business Committee immediately passed a resolution of support so that members of our tribe could continue to use the Carl Albert facility after October 1st. It should be pointed out that at no time was the Business Committee going to allow the delivery of health care at Carl Albert to be interrupted or in any way threatened for our tribal members. Indeed, continued health care to our membership is among the highest priorities of the Business Committee. Accordingly, our tribal membership will be able to access health care at Carl Albert after October 1, 1994 on the same basis as they have in the past.

Nonetheless, I am somewhat disturbed by this whole IHS compacting process and I tend to view it with fear and skepticism. It is not that I believe that the Chickasaws have ulterior motives or that they will not necessarily do a good job of administering the Carl Albert facility. Indeed, I believe that they have compacted the hospital in good faith and I trust that they will use their best efforts to try and better the quality of health care at the hospital.

Rather, the paramount issue here, as I see it, is a back door attempt by the IHS and the federal government to abdicate their responsibility to provide health care to Indian people. As you know, this responsibility is an historical one that arises, and is founded upon, earlier government-to-government treaties and agreements, statutes, regulations, executive orders, and general policy. Under the compacting process, this health care responsibility will be passed from the federal government to the compacting tribe. As I understand it, the compacting tribe may use the allocated monies for a variety of uses other than for health care.

At base, it seems to me that the health care "safety net" for American Indians will be lost if this compacting process is allowed to go forward and expand its way across Indian country. This "safety net" is the unconditional responsibility of the IHS to provide health care. We should hold the IHS accountable for the delivery of these health care services. After all, our ancestors paid a heavy price for the promise of health care. These are services that the Potawatomi and other Indians need as much now as at any time in the past. Therefore, we should vigilantly guard and protect this important and precious resource.





# For the record...

## Business Committee Meeting Phone Conference, May 20, 1994

Linda Capps moved to approve Resolution #94-49 rescheduling the mandatory Business Committee meeting date of May 26, 1994 to May 31, 1994; Hilton Melot seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

## Business Committee Meeting May 31, 1994

Present: Chairman John A. Barrett, Jr., Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, Secretary/Treasurer Bob Davis, Committeeman Hilton Melot, Committeeman Jerry Motley, Tribal Rolls Director Mary Farrell, Health Services Director Joyce Abel, Museum Director Esther Lowden.

Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Linda Capps moved to approve the minutes of the January 31, 1994 Business Committee meeting; Hilton Melot seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed. Phone conference meeting was to reschedule the mandatory meeting date of May 26, 1994 to May 31, 1994.

Esther Lowden reported on the progress of the Pow Wow June 24th, 25th and 26th.

Hilton Melot moved to authorize Health Services Director Joyce Abel to redraft the NACOR Grant of \$400,000.00 for the rehabilitation of the Maranatha Baptist Church property which now belongs to the Tribe and authorizing Joyce to seek additional funding for the expansion of the Tribal Health Center on Hardesty Road; Jerry Motley seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Linda Capps moved to approve Resolution #94-50 requesting the Citizen Band Potawatomi Indian Tribe of Oklahoma to enter into a Mature Contract Status Agreement with the Indian Health Service, Oklahoma City Area, to provide for P.L. 93-638 Indian Self-Determination Funds to be used for Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services Contract #246-93-0034; Bob Davis seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Hilton Melot moved to approve Resolu-

tion #94-51 requesting the Citizen Band Potawatomi Indian Tribe of Oklahoma to enter into a contractual agreement with Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide \$9,000.00 to be used for the Car Seat Loan Program; Linda Capps seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Bob Davis moved to approve Resolution #94-52 enrolling 22 applicants eligible under previous guidelines; John Barrett seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Hilton Melot moved to approve Resolution #94-53 enrolling 26 descendants applicants; Linda Capps seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Jerry Motley moved to approve Resolution #94-54 enrolling 26 descendants applicants; Bob Davis seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Linda Capps moved to approve Resolution #94-55 enrolling 24 descendants applicants; Hilton Melot seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

John Barrett moved to approve Resolution #94-56 enrolling 24 descendants applicants; Jerry Motley seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Jerry Motley moved to approve Resolution #94-57 enrolling 24 descendants applicants; Hilton Melot seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Linda Capps moved to approve Resolution #94-58 enrolling 24 descendants applicants; John Barrett seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Hilton Melot moved to approve Resolution #94-59 enrolling 24 descendants applicants; Jerry Motley seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Bob Davis moved to approve Resolution #94-60 enrolling 24 descendants applicants; Jerry Motley seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

John Barrett moved to approve Resolution #94-61 enrolling 25 descendants applicants; Hilton Melot seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Jerry Motley moved to approve Resolution #94-62 enrolling 26 descendants ap-

plicants; Linda Capps seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Business Committee recessed at 10:00 p.m.

Business reconvened at 10:10 p.m. Hilton Melot moved to adjourn Business Committee meeting; Jerry Motley seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

## Special Committee Meeting

**July 29, 1994**

Present: Chairman John A. Barrett, Jr., Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, Secretary/Treasurer Bob Davis, Committeeman Hilton Melot, Committeeman Jerry Motley.

Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Bob Davis moved to approve Resolution #95-3 authorizing cooperation with the City of Tecumseh concerning Potawatomi land located within the physical borders of the City of Tecumseh; Hilton Melot seconded, passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Hilton Melot moved to adjourn Business Committee meeting; Jerry Motley seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

## Special Committee Meeting

**August 9, 1994**

Present: Chairman John A. Barrett, Jr., Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, Secretary/Treasurer Bob Davis, Committeeman Hilton Melot, Committeeman Jerry Motley, Tribal Administrator J.D. Colbert, Bingo Manager David Qualls, Tribal CPA Jim Denton of John M. Arledge and Associates.

Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Linda Capps moved to waive the reading of minutes from previous Business Committee meeting until the mandatory meeting on August 25, 1994; Jerry Motley seconded: Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Hilton Melot moved to approve Resolution 95-2 authorizing the submission of a FY-94 Community Development Block Grant Program Proposal to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the purpose of obtaining

funds to construct a new building to house the Citizen Band Potawatomi Indian Tribe of Oklahoma Health Department and Clinics.

Previously approved Resolution #95-3 authorizing cooperation with the City of Tecumseh concerning Potawatomi land located within the physical borders of the City of Tecumseh was signed by Chairman John A. Barrett, Jr. and Secretary/Treasurer Bob Davis.

Linda Capps moved to decline advertisement of Oil and Gas Lease sale on the Catherine Bennett Allotment CP 64; Jerry Motley seconded: Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Hilton Melot moved to approve Resolution #95-4 to support the contracting by the Chickasaw Nation of the operation of Carl Albert Indian Hospital in Ada, with the specific provisions that the compact language provides there be no diminished services to all Indian people that are serviced by the hospital; Linda Capps seconded; passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Bob Davis moved to approve Tribal Administrator J.D. Colbert to preliminary survey the financial viability of the Tribe taking St. Anthony's place in the existing lease proposal for Mission Hill Hospital with the intent to purchase the hospital; Hilton Melot seconded: Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Chairman Barrett moved to approve donations of \$500.00 to Big Brothers and Sisters of Pottawatomie and Seminole Counties and \$250.00 to Pat Burris of Vision Quest, a Public Charity, which provides Sports and Martial Arts to underprivileged children: Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Linda Capps moved to appropriate \$7500.00 from the General Fund for the matching money from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to purchase a new Police cruiser; Hilton Melot seconded: Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Jerry Motley moved to adjourn Business Committee meeting; Linda Capps seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.



## A Potawatomi welcome to these new members

### Enrolled under previous guidelines:

Edward Herbert Goodin  
Robert David Pittman  
May Louise Watts Wyle  
Dayle Mae Mason Roberts  
Bonnie Eilene Dudek Arbgast  
John Marcel Smits  
Sandra Kathleen Smits  
Robert Eugene Clift  
Patricia Ann Clift  
James Dean Crutchfield  
Ashly Nicole Crutchfield  
Alexandra Lane Bruce

### Descendancy Enrollees:

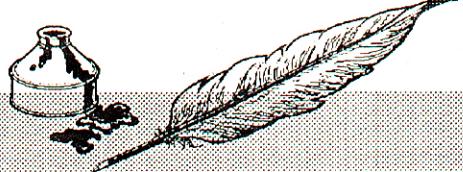
Robert Gene Dewitt, Jr.  
Samantha Francis White  
Janine Marie DeWitt Snow  
Brian Lee Finley  
Ginger Renee Cheatwood  
Mariah Dawn Beauford  
Dawn Rae Shepherd Boysel  
Mitchell Lee (Pim Yah Tah Mah)  
Walker  
Kelly Dawn Cory  
Teresa Gwen Hull Schwiehale  
Sett Derek Schwiehale  
Zachry Gene Schwiehale  
Jayne Allicia Sauer  
Jaclyn Michelle Sauer  
Zachary Ty Melot  
Taylor James Bassham  
May Catherine Bumpass

Cheryl Dawn Melot Cole  
Amannda Leigh Beasley  
Kevyn Robert Lee Beasley  
Kurt Andrew Schmidt  
Melody Alaine Schmidt  
Melissa Dawn Thomas  
Jazmin Marie Humphreys  
David Bruce Young  
Kathleen Elizabeth Young  
Stephanie Lee Epp  
Amanda Shantel Tracy  
Eric Michael Venson  
Burgundy Brinn Marie Comeaux  
Charles Quintin Hall  
Keiley Marie Smith  
Jennifer Michele Tompkins  
Tiffany Marie Tompkins  
Brandon Richard Blumberg  
Crystal Denise Conway  
Brenda Lynn Yancey Sinks  
Karen Ann Yancey  
Catherine Lynn Sinks  
Jennifer June Corino  
Scotty Lee Casey  
Christina Jo Higbee  
William Jacob Pockrus  
Daniel Griffenstein Burnett  
Christina Noel Kinslow  
Lynnae Jade Dull  
Melody Margaret Dull  
Ivan Thomas Tarter  
Mark Randell Goodin  
JDennis James Slavin  
Eric Stephen Bass

Shawn Ray Epp  
Trevis Gene Epp  
Allyson Rene Hodam  
Rebecca Joe Faulkner Charbonneau  
Robert Lynn Slavin  
Conway Scott Phelps  
Debra Michelle Montgomery  
Hailey Patrice Haase  
Bethany Morgan Lee  
Lydia Anne Davison  
Bryan David Fink  
Brandon Franklin Ballinger  
Tia Rashelle Ballinger  
William Bryce Ballinger  
Kara Lynn Ballinger  
Erin Elizabeth Korzeniewski  
Joshua Michael Forte  
Konnie Kathryn Wilson Warden  
Shanan Dawn Warden  
Justin Wayne Arbgast  
Derrick James Higgins  
Justin Patrick Brown  
Melissa Marie Fink Jones  
Smith Taylor Tescier  
Corrina Marie Eggers McDaniel  
Robert Ernest Lee  
David Joseph McDaniel  
Michael Scott McDaniel  
Tammy Kaye Welch  
Bradyne Ray Rhodes  
Tammy Marie Hickman Rose  
Joseph Francis Edward Hickman  
Connor Preston Lisle  
Gary Michael Yott

Patience Rose Remer  
Derrick Wayne Shouse  
Tyler Lee McInturff  
Tayler Monroe McInturff  
Jack Donovan Isbell III  
Courtney Walker Isbell  
Nicole Joanne Darling  
John Thomas Darling  
Linda Christine Darling  
Troy Michael Darling  
Harold Matthew Yeager  
Brian David Kisby  
Christopher Jordan Sager  
Mahada Bernadette Martin  
Alisa Blake Isbell  
Charles Lymon Russell, Jr.  
Kane Haley Cooper  
Morgan Jolene Moudy  
Brittnie Michelle Tipton  
Kristina Ann Duncan  
Kristen Navarre Smits  
Bendan Robert Smits  
Casey Lynn Kime  
Katelynn Anne Petkoff  
Justus Storm Barr  
Jessica Jo Spalding  
Ashely Nichole Thompson  
Jesse Jon Burns  
Branson Lee Daugherty  
Moriah Noel DeWitt  
Holly Del Friend  
Brandi Lorelle Callison  
Wesley Allen Callison, Jr.  
Lindsay Jean White

Michael Denslowe Honeycutt  
Rebecca Nicole Honeycutt  
Noah Luther Rumbaugh  
Michael Lloyd Palmer  
Megan Lynne Palmer  
Charli Marie Miller  
Christopher James Lightner II  
Tracey Douglas Hyatt  
Eric Benjamin Dorsey  
Kristin Michelle Dorsey  
Andrea Dawn Moore  
Tyler Andrew Moore  
Robert Casto White  
Christopher Casto White  
Robert Ryan White  
Amy Michelle Rhodd Brown  
Clarissa Glyn Gibson  
Nicholas Aaron Engmann  
Antoinette Patrice Engmann  
Shawn Michael Tesier  
Allison Renee Werner  
Clay Henry Bourbonnais  
Courtne Ryan Mefield  
James Randolph Edwards III  
Steven Tyler Edwards  
Heidi Jane Anderson Lopreiato  
Katelyn Noel Whitaker  
James Thomas Lewis  
Chad Wayne Higbee  
Carrie Michelle Higbee McKennon  
Daniel Paul McKennon  
Arron Trever Higbee  
Lou Anne Melot McAninch  
Jaimie Lauren Lacroix Melot



# IN YOUR OPINION

## Reader seeks information about photo

Dear HowNiKan,

Guess it's about time I sent a check. I know it isn't much. I have now become a grandfather for the first time.

Enclosed is a picture, explained at the bottom of it.

I attended the Pokagon Band Pow Wow and talked to the elders. They couldn't recognize any one in the picture. Most thought it must be at the turn of the century. Wonder if it is a girls' graduation class, or what?

I do not know if you can make a copy for your paper but it would be interesting if anyone had any comments.

It is like so many letters I receive wanting to find their heritage.

Keep up the good work.  
Sincerely,

Max R. Breslauer

Calumet City, Illinois

P.S. I did write Pat Kiefer to see if she can find out more about the picture.



*A Group Of Potawatomi Photographed In Decatur, Michigan, Date And Occasion Unknown*

## Massachusetts tribal member finds first pow wow a very special experience

To The Editor:

It is of interest to me that there are pow wows here in New England as well as in the Southwest. After years of reading about pow wows in the HowNiKan and feeling very jealous because I lived so

far away, I was finally aware enough to see a pow wow advertised not far from where I live. So last Saturday I was able to go to an Inter-Tribal Pow Wow in North Hampton, Massachusetts.

What a wonderful experi-

ence! And to see faces that resembled my own was a treat! Sure aren't many people around here with dark eyes, hair and skin. And the slow gentleness of our people is different from the fast pace I see in New England. Thank

you for raising my awareness to look in my own "back-yard" for a time exploring my heritage. I danced with some other people in a couple of dances. It was very moving for me.

God bless you all and keep

up the good work you do by keeping us in contact with each other and the Higher Power.

Sincerely,  
Julia Sousa Fullam  
West Brookfield, Mass.

## Mishomsin: The Creation of First Man and First Woman

By JOHNNY P. FLYNN

Like most Indian tribes, the Potawatomi people have stories that might be called "creation stories." Some people call them myths, or legends, or made-up stories, but they are really ways of explaining the Potawatomi relationship to the things in the world around them. Animals, trees, plants, rocks, and so on, all had their place in creation and the Potawatomi developed stories about them which helped explain their value and use in Potawatomi life.

People all over the world have always considered rocks or stones to be of value. Consider for a moment the vows of marriage in modern society. The man and woman exchange rocks, diamonds and gold, as a way of recognizing their commitment to each other. In fact, the exchange of the circle of rocks, called rings, is the highlight of the ceremony and is ever after a symbol of their love for each other.

But consider also that diamonds and

gold have no intrinsic value. Diamonds shine, but so does glass, and woe to the groom who gives his bride glass instead of the real thing. Gold is too soft to be of any real use and must be "alloyed" with other rocks in order to be used in industry. But you can't eat diamonds and gold, they don't keep you warm, and they are, after all, just rocks. It is the value that people invest in rocks that make them change into sacred stones.

Among the Potawatomi people there is a story about the creation of first man and first woman that involves a stone. Now you have to know that Indian people invested a tremendous amount of significance into rocks, often known as "bones of the earth." Rocks were shaped into stones that were used for cooking, hunting, tanning of hides, and objects for medical purposes. All medicine people had collections of stones that were used for telling the weather, healing the sick, or talking with the spirits of the other worlds. They were not just rocks, but

stones. Many of these sacred stones were geodes, that is, a hollow centered stone surrounded by an accretion of harder metals, usually iron.

In the beginning of the world for the Potawatomi, there was a sacred stone called "mishomsin." There is no exact English translation for the word, but it can be thought of as "ancestor rock," or, the "stone that breathes." At the center of the stone was a bit of organic matter, a tiny piece of living material. As creation began to take place, the rock also began to vibrate with new life.

As the rock began to vibrate, it also began to heat up. Pretty soon the vibration began to grow stronger and the rock became hotter and hotter until it was glowing like fire.

After a while, the heat became so intense that fire hot rock began to separate. The intensity of creation, the vibration and the heat, caused the rock to separate, not crack like some rocks, but to divide into two distinct shapes.

At the peak of its heat and vibration, the rock divided into two stones and a burst of energy from the living core of the stone caused a sacred wind. The wind blew out and split into two souls that fluttered like birds into the center of each of the red hot stones. The rock had changed during the act of creation into sacred stones, and they came to life. As they cooled, they came to life as First Man and First Woman.

So new life for the Potawatomi people would always be born from the joining together of these two sacred stones, called man and woman, in the act of creation. The Potawatomi child is born from the heat of unity, and joined at birth with an ancient windsoul, a bit of living spirit symbolized by words of love and commitment spoken by First Man and First Woman.

So one must always be careful with words and acts of love, they are powerful, and must be used only when men and women are sure that they will be carried by a spiritual wind.

# REGIONAL REPORTS

## REGIONAL OFFICE DIRECTORY

### DENVER

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FAX (303)863-0152  
Toll Free (800)531-1140

### HOUSTON

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26231 Huffsmith-Conroe Rd.  
Magnolia, TX 77355  
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Toll Free (800)272-7957

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Merced, CA 95348  
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FAX (209)723-4914  
Toll Free (800)874-8585

### PORTLAND

Roscoe "Rocky" Baptiste  
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Toledo, OR 97391  
Local (503)336-1606  
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### SEATTLE

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3523 Anthony Place South  
Seattle, WA 98144  
Local (206)723-8055  
Toll Free (800)722-8055  
FAX (206)723-8055

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Jeremy Bertrand Finch  
203 Bellefontaine Street  
Pasadena, CA 91105  
Local (818)796-2008  
FAX (800)432-2008  
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### NORTHERN TEXAS

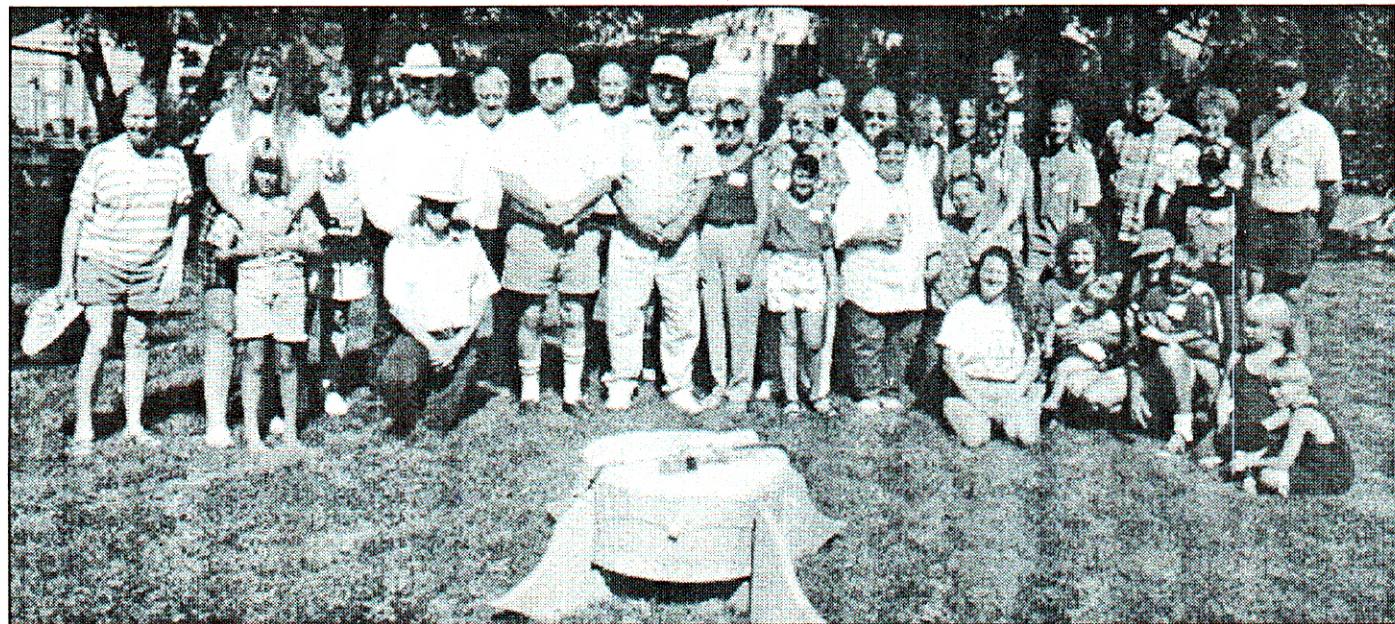
Marjorie Hobdy  
3132 Kathy Lane  
Irving, TX 75060  
Local (214) 790-3075  
Toll Free (800) 742-3075

### SOUTHWESTERN

Philonise Williams  
20415 N. 29th St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85024  
Local (602) 569-3073  
Toll Free (800) 452-8966

### MIDWEST

Maryann Frank  
468 J. R. Avenue  
Belton, MO 64012  
Local (816) 322-6639  
Toll Free (800) 325-6639



Thirty-four Citizen Band tribal members and their families gathered at the home of Nichole and Steve Collins August 6 for the Boise Potawatomi picnic. The Collins family is seated front right. Drum is foreground is from

Shayshoshewa Westin, who provided the day's music and taught dance and song. She was accompanied by family and friends Washington Regional Representative Susan Campbell is standing to Nicole's right.

## WASHINGTON STATE

### Bourzho from Washington State!

I can't believe how quickly summer left us this year. After one of the most beautiful summers on record (and temperatures up to 100) fall seemed to arrive overnight.

The Boise picnic took place on a perfect August day. Thirty-four people gathered in Nicole Collins' backyard for a full day of food, visiting and drumming. Shayshoshewa Westin brought along her drum and drum group and after food had settled, got us involved in singing and dancing on the grass. Clen Haas gathered corn in the early morning then cooked it and served it hot and fresh; the watermelon he served later was just as good!

There was a lot of great food, a lot of friendly talk, some games and door prizes. Chi-E-Shenam, who makes traditional flutes, shared his music with us as well and answered lots of questions. I'd like to thank those who made the day so special by coming as well as Nicole and Steve Collins and their son Bronson and Paige Lucas and her daughter Cheyenne who let us campout and fed us as well. And to those who did so much work so we could have a good time: Wa-wa-nah!

Although we didn't travel through the fires, we definitely were impacted by the wildfires (and arson fires) which affected eastern Washington and western Idaho. We saw and smelled smoke during our travels — and I know that the fires north of Boise kept some people home from our picnic. Fire came within half a mile of Shayshoshewa and Chi-E-Shenam's home, causing them to be evacuated for 10 days in late August.

One of the firefighters who assessed the situation identified himself as Ojibwe/Potawatomi and, using an Eagle Feather, blessed the house as the fires came closer. Although they faced clean-up of blown ash and soot, their house was spared. Unfortunately not everyone was so blessed; my prayers go out to all those who lost homes and who lost loved ones. It was a devastating summer in the Northwest.

Congratulations to Philonise Kulani on her opportunity to work as an extra on the CBS series "Northern Exposure." If you're as addicted to the show as I am, watch for her on the episode titled "The Letter."

My thanks go to Keith Navarre who, over the past few

months, has shared his wisdom and knowledge with me. Keith gave me a mental picture of my great-grandmother which I cherish and carry with me. Instead of the lady in the rocker I now can "see" her as the tomboy she was riding across the plains!

Please send your good thoughts to Hazel Neff and her husband Mr. Neff. They will return from a five-week car trip (to Kansas, Nevada and Arizona) about the time you read this. This year Hazel was honored as our Wise Woman at regional. She has generously shared her family history with me as well as the gift of friendship.

Speaking of regional: MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 11, 1995. That will be the date of the Seattle Regional Meeting. You will know more details as I know them.

If you or someone you know are enrolled at North Seattle Community College, check out the Native American Student Council. They provide tutoring, counseling, weekly meetings and quarterly activities and potlucks. They can be reached at (206) 527-3676. At the University of Washington, contact the Native American Student Council at (206) 543-4635; their services are very similar and they sponsor an annual pow wow.

On August 17 Eric and I were guests of Washington Gov. Mike Lowry at a reception in honor of Larry Echohawk, the attorney general of the state of Idaho. Larry's cousin Helaire has become a good friend so it was good to be there, to see her and others in the Seattle Native American community, and to congratulate Larry on his campaign for governor of Idaho.

Congratulations also go to Mary Wa-Wa-Sek who was elected to the position of Tribal Chairman for the Prairie Band Potawatomi this past July! And to the members of the Pokagon Band Potawatomi, who I read became a federally recognized Tribe recently! It's been a lot of work — and a long time coming — to get there.

As you watch the glorious colors of the fall leaves change into winter's cold, remember that all of life changes as well and try to be a little kinder, a little more loving, to those in your circle. We don't know where any of us will be come spring.

*Susan Campbell*

# REGIONAL REPORTS

## HOUSTON

### Bourzho from Southeast Texas!

"Yesterday is the past, tomorrow the future, but today is a gift; that is why we call it the present."

I use that quotation to open my little letter to you this month because I hope to convince you, as I am convinced, that there are some "gifts" that we take for granted that we don't see them pass away, and when we miss them, they are irretrievable.

Our Potawatomi language is on the top of my list of gifts that are rapidly passing. Do you know anyone who still speaks the language of our people? Why should we give it up forever?

I recently learned that it is estimated there were once 25,000 languages worldwide. Now about 3,000 are in daily usage. In our part of the world, there were thought to be in excess of 600 spoken languages before the advent of European influence. Some, such as the Algonquin group, are very similar, yet not entirely the same. Some quite different from our own. Many were lost forever during the decimation and removal of tribes in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Today, in the present, we have the opportunity to retrieve that part of our Potawatomi culture. There are still some Potawatomi people who know and use our language. There may even be some who will willingly spend the time necessary to teach us. We are all "busy." But we must not be too busy to give a little of our time to learn, so we may give to our children and our grandchildren that part of our past that enables us to communicate as only Potawatomi people can. I am a poor scholar, but I am trying to learn.

I want to share with you another thing I have learned this summer. We hear often that the "Old Ways" are not being taught, and that we have lost our culture, but that may be a fallacy. I remember asking many times "why?" Why do I have to do that? Why are we doing this? Why can't I? The answer was often, "Because it is the right thing to do. Because we have ALWAYS done this. Because it is not a becoming thing for a woman to do." What I was never told was "it is the Potawatomi way." Not that it wasn't, but there seemed no reason to make the distinction. Will you share your thoughts about that?

Our next council meeting in Southeast Texas will be April 15. It is never too early to make plans. We will meet indoors this year.

Keep well, call me.

Megwetch,

*Lu Ellis*

## REGIONAL COUNCIL SCHEDULE

These are the dates for the remaining Regional Council meetings during the 1994-1995 series:

Phoenix, Arizona .....	November 19, 1994
Southern California .....	January 14, 1995
Seattle, Washington .....	February 11, 1995
Eugene, Oregon .....	February 25, 1995
Northern, California .....	March 18, 1995
Texas (Houston) .....	April 15, 1995
Texas (Dallas) .....	April 29, 1995
Kansas City .....	May 20, 1995

## DENVER

Here in Denver it is starting to cool, the leaves haven't started to turn yet but they're not far away. There has already been snow up in the mountains. Brrr.

Thank you to all the people who called and welcomed me to this position. You all have been very kind.

I have been very busy recently getting the regional meeting ready. I hope those of you who can attend will enjoy it.

I have had some very interesting calls already, one from Guatemala, one from London, England, one from Mexico.

I just realized that I told you that I was in this position, but I didn't tell you anything about myself. So here goes. I was born in Santa Paula, CA in 1965. That's right; I'm a young one, twenty-eight. I was raised in Arkansas by my grandparent on a fairly large ranch with cattle and registered Quarter Horses. I met my husband in Arkansas and from there we moved to Minneapolis, Minn. We lived there for one year then moved to Denver. We have been here in Denver for about five years. I am one of the Navarre clan.

I have had some disturbing telephone calls lately. One person I talked to said, a little under their breath, "I'm part of the clan that your clan doesn't like." Let me make this clear up front — I could give a hoot for politics! That is not why I took this position; I took it because I felt that I could make a difference for the people I work for, YOU!

One of the things that I will see here is health care. Did you know that we don't have any health care for Native Americans here in Colorado? It's true. I know from personal experience. I had to go to Farmington, N.M., to have surgery on the Navaho Reservation. In the Denver metro area alone, we have over 20,000 Natives. We also don't have any housing for the homeless Indians. Or a place where they can go to clean themselves with sage, sweetgrass. And the list goes on and on that's why we have to forget the past and start working together to improve this earth before we are called to the other side.

Next month I'll fill you in on how the regional meeting went and who was there.

Don't forget to start filling out the grant and scholarship information now.

Those of you that haven't gotten around to calling me, give me a call. I would love to get to know all of you. Norma, when you get a chance...

Bright Blessings,

*Lisa Baldwin*

## KANSAS CITY

### Bourzho from Kansas City!

Where has this year gone? Time sure flies when you're having fun or is it the older you get? Anyway, it has been a great year.

The date for the Kansas City Regional meeting has been set for next year. It will be May 20, 1995 so mark your calendars. Don't forget about the midwest regional dinner dance on October 8 in Independence, Missouri. We had a great dinner dance powwow last fall.

I've gotten a lot of calls this month for enrollment forms and questions regarding tribal dress and dancing. Call me with any of your questions; I'll always try to help if I can, or get the information if I don't have it.

You never know where you'll meet a fellow tribal member. At play rehearsal a couple of weeks ago, I wore one of my Potawatomi t-shirts. The young lady that played my daughter "Essie" in the play, "You Can't Take It With You," said she liked my shirt and that she too was a member of an Indian tribe. I laughed when she said she couldn't remember the name of it, but Potawatomi sure sounded like it.

She said she gets a newsletter from Oklahoma called the "HowNiKan." Lo and behold, a fellow tribal member! Her name is Jennifer Austin and she is a member of the Bourbonnais family. Small world, isn't it? Like Jeremy Finch says, wear your t-shirts, ball caps and buttons! Jennifer is a wonderful actress and played the part of Essie so well. I really enjoyed working with her.

I was part of a dance demonstration in Peculiar, Missouri in September. We were also in the parade that morning. On October 22, I will again be participating in the American Royal parade. We will also be putting on a dance demonstration at the Commerce Bank that morning before the parade in downtown Kansas City. I certainly have been busy, and loving every minute of it. Keep in touch; I'm here for you!

Megwetch,

*Maryann Frank*

## NORTHERN TEXAS

I hope you've been reading your How-Ni-Kan and keeping up with the change at the Tribal headquarters in Shawnee. A nice article in the September issue introduced our new administrator, J.D. Colbert. I have not met J.D. and his family and am looking forward to doing so next spring if not sooner. J.D. will beat our regional meeting here in Dallas. It's not too early to put the date, April 29, 1995, on your calendar and make your plans to be at our meeting. I'm already reminding those of you who call me about this date.

This coming year our regional meeting will return to an inside location. Rocky Barrett has requested that we have our meetings inside this year and Linda Capps is preparing a slide presentation for us. The meeting will be informative, as usual, and "climate controlled." Some of you have expressed a preference for the way it used to be. I'm looking forward to the new format. If you have questions or suggestions, give me a call.

I'm writing this report on the way to Midland, Texas to visit with our daughter who has recently started a new job as a petroleum engineer. I'm thinking of those of you in the West Texas area. Perhaps when I'm in the area, we could get together. Give me a call if you're interested and we'll try to find a time.

The recent rains were welcome and we're seeing a slight break in the weather. The change in seasons signal renewal and new beginnings and is always welcome.

*Marj Hobdy*

# REGIONAL REPORTS

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

### Bourzho from Pasadena!

I came upon a quote from one of our Potawatomi leaders, Simon Plkagon (1830-1899):

"Often in the stillness of the night, when all nature seems asleep about me, there comes a gentle rapping at the door of my heart. I open it, and a voice inquires, "Pokagon, what of your people? What will their future be?" My answer is: "Mortal man has not the power to draw aside the veil of unborn time to tell the future of his race. That gift belongs to the Divine alone. But it is given to him to closely judge the future by the present, and the past."

I leave it to you, nikon, to walk through your own hearts with this profound thought, where perhaps you may find a place for it to be kept. The thoughts of Pokagon come to us over time and distance, direct from a larger, more enduring heart — that of our people. Aho.

Most of you are aware that I had the honor of videotaping our Potawatomi Tribal Police last spring for the nationally syndicated TV show "Real Stories of the Highway Patrol." The show seeks to dramatize the excellent job our law enforcement agencies do for us and to show the lengths they'll go to for our well-being, often disregarding their own safety in the process.

The segments to which I am referring zero in on tribal police for a particular segment of the show called "Real Heroes of the Highway Patrol." I am proud to say that the Potawatomi Tribal Police were the first tribal police to appear on this show, which is seen by tens of millions of people daily.

I'm happy to announce here in *HowNiKan* that the segments I directed came out well and are scheduled to be aired on the following dates:

"INTO THE WEEDS" - November 2

"HOLD ON" - November 11

"THE BOUNCER" - December 6

Tune in and invite the neighbors over to share your pride! Remember, these are segments of the show. If you start to watch and they're showing a "ride-along" (real-life footage) in Kentucky or something, stay with it — the dramatized segment will come up toward the end of the show...

I want to again thank the business committee and other members of the tribal administration and staff for their cooperation and patience.

You know, most people don't realize that many Native people have our own law enforcement agencies. (As a matter of fact, some suspect that we don't even have telephones.) It is my hope that these reenactments will bring that into focus for them.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

American Indian International Chamber of Commerce is up and operating. If you own your own business, give them a call 4040 30th St., Ste 202, San Diego 92104 (800) 260-8243, (local callers call information for number).

Apprenticeship Preparation Electrical Construction Training For Women starts October 3. Classes run from 1 - 4 pm Monday through Thursday for 14 weeks. Info: Career Equity Services. LA Unified School District (213) 625-4555.

Legal Aid Services are now available from 12 pm to 5 pm, Tuesday and Thursday at the Southern California Indian Center, 2500 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 750, Los Angeles, CA 90057. Info: (213) 387-5772.

For information regarding employment with the Immigration Service, call Fannie Billy at (213) 894-4972.

UC Riverside now has a Native American radio program every Thursday from 5 - 6 pm on station KUCR, FM 88.3. Info: Earl Sisto (909) 787-4143.

The Eldercare Locator, a new information and referral service administered by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging designed to help identify community resources for seniors anywhere in the United States, is

available to provide information on services such as home-delivered meals, legal assistance, transportation, housing options, adult daycare, home health services, and elder abuse prevention. Call (800) 677-1116 between the hours of 6:00 am and 5:00 pm.

The American Indian Clinic is looking for volunteers. If you want to help and don't know where to start, try here. They need a computer operator, filing clerk, carpenter, janitor, and health care professionals. Call (310) 920-7227 between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm and ask for Nina Capeluto or Linda Hawk.

### Pow Wow Schedule:

Hutash POW WOW October 7-9 at Live Oak Campground, Santa Barbara (formerly San Marcos Campground) (805) 564-4473.

Four Winds Intertribal Council of Ridgecrest 1st Annual Pow Wow October 22-23. Info: Edna Laytart (619) 375-6900.

### And a Few Reminders:

The San Diego Museum of Man still has available for your viewing the "Fact, Fun, Fantasy: Navajo Pictorial Weavings from The Steve and Cleves Weber Collection." Bring your tribal ID card for free admission.

The Southern California Indian Center, Van Nuys Office, has moved because of earthquake damage. The new address is 6309 Van Nuys Blvd. Suite 104, Van Nuys, CA 91401.

If you would like to be a foster parent to an American Indian child, please call Indian Child and Family Services Southern California Indian Center, (213) 387-5772.

Native American Christian Worship Services are held every 2nd and 4th Sunday in our region. You're asked to bring a dish to share at the potluck that follows the service, and childcare is provided. For exact locations, call Reverend Buddy Monahan (Choctaw/Maricopa) at (310) 670-5076 (office) or (310) 643-5793.

American Indian Housing Services' telephone number is (213) 353-8844.

Tutoring services are available in both Orange and Los Angeles Counties - FREE OF CHARGE! Contact tutor coordinator Renee Dusseau, (213) 728-8844.

The Southern California Indian Center has an American Indian Senior Center in Garden Grove. Available to those 55 and older, it's a warm and friendly gathering place to make friends, share culture, enjoy a hot meal, and receive supportive services. Call (714) 530-0221 Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm for information.

Martial arts instruction is available to Native American people 18 years or older at no charge! The classes are held at Cal State LA and run from 6-8 pm every Thursday night.

The Southern California Indian Center, Inc. is sponsoring a Pow Wow Dance Workshop available to American Indian students (up through 12th grade). Included are traditional and fancy dance styles representing both Northern and Southern tribes. Also included is instruction on regalia design and construction. The classes will be held on Tuesday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles (site of our 1994 Regional Council meeting). Call (213) 728-8844 for more information.

Are any of you bowling in the American Indian Bowling Association? If not, and you want to, call Betty Tsotonokat at (818) 968-7691 for info.

Call your Southern California Regional Office for specifics on any of the above.

And remember, when attending any Native American event, wear your Potawatomi ball cap, tee-shirt, jacket, or button, all available through our tribal store. And get out there into that circle and DANCE. Let's let everyone know how proud we are to be Potawatomi!

Megwetch,

*Jeremy Bertrand Finch*

## OREGON

### Bourzho from Oregon;

Our warmest welcome to J.D. Colbert, our new Tribal Administrator. I understand they call him J.D. We are looking forward to meeting him when he comes to Oregon and our council meeting here. We will really miss Bob Davis, as he not only was our guiding point there at the Tribal Complex but also a good friend. We are hoping Bob gets a deserved rest and wish him luck in his future endeavors.

Many of you have been asking about our regional council meeting, which we usually have in August. I have a date for you now. We are scheduled to have our regional meeting in February. I will have letters out to all of you, probably in January, to give you more information on the exact date and time.

As you know in Oregon, August is the month for pow wows. The Siletz Pow Wow was bigger than ever. I hope some of you got to attend. I know that we are just starting to become recognized by the coast tribe here. At Grand Ronde, the three days were certainly filled with lots of dance and good feelings and prayers. They have just started getting back the land that was taken away from them and building a dance arena and camp grounds, as well as Tribal buildings, and health and dental offices. Remember for those of you who need the health and dental services, these clinics can be used by our members too.

School started all over the United States after Labor day weekend, that is if it hadn't already started in your town. I would like to remind all you seniors to please get in touch with me so we can help you with scholarship information. If I can give you any advice it is to start early, in gathering your information and applying for your grants and scholarships.

### Dates to Remember:

Oct. 8 — Salem area Fall Pow Wow, Polk County Fairgrounds Rickreal, OR, 12 miles West of Salem, 503-623-8971.

Oct. 14-16 — Four Nations Pow Wow, Lewiston, Idaho, 208-843-2003.

Oct. 28-30 — Mid Columbia River Pow Wow, Celilo, OR, 503-298-1559.

Nov. 11 — Veterans Day Pow Wow, Chemawa Indian School, Salem, OR call 503-399-5721

Nov. 12 — Restoration Celebration, Siletz, OR., 503-444-2532

Until next month remember to call the office if I can be of any help or answer any of your questions. I am here for you anytime.

*Rocky Baptiste*

# REGIONAL REPORTS

## PHOENIX

### Bourzho Nicon!

A poet once wrote, "The best laid plans of mice and men oft times glang a glee." Some of our plans have been switched and perhaps for the better.

A change that has been made that concerns us all is our new Tribal Administrator, J.D. Colbert. A hearty welcome to you and we are happy to have you and your family with us. I am looking forward to meeting him and getting acquainted. Bob Davis, I for one will miss you, but I'm sure that you will have your hand in there somewhere.

I would like to welcome Lisa Baldwin to the ranks of Regional Directors. She takes over the reins in Colorado from Norma Whitley. Lisa does have a slight advantage, she helped Norma from time to time. Norma is not totally gone, but just changed states. I know Susan Campbell will welcome her and keep her busy. Perhaps the next time I'm in Seattle, I will see her. Good luck and happiness, Norma, in your new adventures.

By now you are aware that there is not going to be a picnic in October because we are having our regional in November. You will be receiving your invitations soon, please return the RSVPs as soon as possible. The regional is being held at the Holiday Inn this time and I have a deadline for a head count. Please get them in ASAP! I believe this is going to be a very good and informative meeting, so I urge all of you who can possibly be there to do so and get some answers you have been looking for.

My friend Dorthea Buck has passed along some valuable information that may be helpful to us. There is an office of lawyers here in the Phoenix area for American Indians. However in order to qualify for help you must be low income and live in Maricopa County.

There is a new project in the Phoenix area if any of you are interested. It is called the The Native American Heritage Preservation Coalition. Its goal is to build up the old Indian School property, so that we may all have access to a cultural center we may all use in the near future. If something isn't done with it, the property comes up for grabs in 1996, and you know how people love to grab our land. If any of you are interested in working on the coalition, please give me a call and I will put you in touch with the person in charge. Holding on to this piece of property means a lot to our brothers and sisters here. I hope some of us are able to help them.

Remember you cannot help another, that it doesn't come back to you in other ways.

Til next time.

Megwetch,

Philonise Williams

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

### Bourzho Niconi,

MARK YOUR CALENDERS FOR MARCH 18, 1995. THAT IS THE DATE FOR OUR REGIONAL MEETING.

This year the meeting will be held indoors at the Merced County Fairgrounds in Merced. We have a 10,000 square foot building that will accommodate displays, drumming, dancing, our tribal store and a sit down eating area for all who attend. We will have the same great food as well as a lot of information on our culture, present operations, and many other things. If you are interested in having anything special, please give me a call.

We completed our sweat on schedule and everyone that was there had a special experience. Anyone who would be interested in participating in a sweat, please give me a call.

This month brought about a sadness for my heart as I learned of the passing of Richard K. Wiles of Stockton. Richard was our first regional representative in Northern California and led me into the position more than two years ago. He loved his heritage and helped many people all over the country while serving as our representative. To Richard's wife and five children and to the rest of the family, I offer my condolences on his passing and offer my prayers of thanks for having known Richard.

The last weekend in September will note the closest pow wow in Northern California is in Porterville. The third weekend in September will note the American Indian Cultural Festival in Pismo Beach. Also, the last weekend will be California Indian Day Celebration on September 24 in Auberry, Calif. (above Fresno). The first weekend in October will be the 6th Annual West Valley College Powwow in Saratoga, CA. The second weekend in October will host the Bay Area Indian Alliance Powwow in Oakland. Berley will also have the 3rd Annual Indigenous People's Day Powwow and Indian Market on October 9. For any information on these, give me a call. I'll be out of the office 11 days in September, so have patience on the return of phone calls. We are still sending out a lot of applications, medical assistance information and education information.

Gary Bibb



### Mystery Photo

Rena Belcher of Tecumseh, Oklahoma, wonders if anyone can identify the two Nadeau women in this photograph. She knows they're Nadeaus, but which ones?



### TO YOUR HEALTH...

### Seventh Grade: Reading, Writing & Risk

Why The Risk of Alcohol and Other Abuse Increases And What We Can Do

What makes school children moving from the sixth to the seventh grade so vulnerable to increased risk of alcohol and other drug use, suicide, antisocial behavior and other destructive activities?

The newly released results of the 1993 Johnson Institute Student View survey have produced some surprising answers based on the evaluation of drug trends among 40,690 sixth through twelfth grade students in dozens of different communities across the nation.

According to the Institute's survey, between the sixth and seventh grade, emotional distress increases and antisocial behavior leaps. Most striking of all was the dramatic rise between sixth and seventh grades in the percentage of students reporting the use of cigarettes and alcohol.

"Part of the stress during this unique period comes from their moving from the relative stability of sixth grade — which is often characterized by a single homeroom teacher, small class size and clear standards for student behavior — to the seventh grade, in which a far larger student body moves from class to class and in which the school's expectation of behavior is more ambiguous," say Wilmes.

"Add to this the physical changes of puberty that hit many young teens during the same period, and you have a recipe for a very vulnerable population of kids."

"It's clear from the survey data that even before these kids make decisions about dating, they make life-threatening decisions about alcohol and other drug use. And if we lose these students between sixth and seventh grade, we'll lose some of them forever."

### Communication Tips For Parents & Kids

"You never listen to me" is a complaint heard as often from children as parents. Good communication helps children and parents to develop confidence, feelings of self-worth, and good relationships with others. Try these tips:

Teach children to listen ... gently touch a child before you talk ... say his or her name.

Speak in a quiet voice ... whisper sometimes so children have to listen.

Look a child in the eyes so you can tell when he or she understands ... bend or sit down ... become the child's size.

Practice listening and talking ... talk with your family about what you see on TV, hear on the radio, or see at the park or store. Talk with your children about school and their friends.

Respect children with a courteous tone of voice. If we talk to our children as we would our friends, our youngsters would be more likely to seek us out as confidants.

Catch children and teens being good. Praise them for cooperating with you or their siblings, for doing those little things that are so easy to take for granted.

Use door openers that invite children to say more about an incident or their feelings. "I see," "Oh," "Tell me more," "No kidding," "Really," "Mm hmm," "Say that again, I want to be sure I understand you."

Praise builds a child's confidence and reinforces communication. Unkind words tear children down and teach them that they just aren't good enough.

Children are never too old to be told they are loved. Saying "I love you" is important. Writing it in a note provides the child with a reminder that he/she can hold on to.

Give your undivided attention when your children want to talk to you. Don't read, watch TV, fall asleep, or make yourself busy with other tasks.

(From CASA Newsletter, July 1990).

# POTAWATOMI SCRAPBOOK



## END THE TRAIL

By Potawatomi Artist David Miller, © 1993

"This is my last memory of Grover. He lived his last years in grace and dignity in a tiny room at the rear of his mother's home... Grover never rode when he could walk. He would even walk from Shawnee to Muskogee or Pauls Valley to visit kin, sometimes taking months. But then, 'The world's in too big a hurry anyway.'"

By JIM MILLER

Oh, Lord! I'm afraid I've set myself a very difficult task. I'm about to try to explain my feelings about Uncle Grover, to try to make you understand why this man holds a very place in my heart. I'm afraid that after I've had my say, after I've told you things that Grover did, and things that Grover said, you're still not gonna know why I loved my Uncle Grover. Oh, well, here goes anyway.

He came to live with us in about 1936 when the depression was making life hard for everyone. We had just moved to the country, a few miles northeast of Shawnee, Oklahoma, into a small two story (unfurnished) house that groaned and swayed in the wind. God, that house was cold! I was 5 and I guess that's why he was so amazing to me.

The first amazing thing was that he had his own private bedroom. He showed the room to us kids. It was clean

and neat. The dresser and night table had a lace cover. The few items on the dresser were arranged with exact precision. The night table had a kerosene lamp and a stack of western pulp magazines. At the foot of the bed there was a foot locker that was so neat that it would have passed a G. I. inspection. But the most amazing thing of all, the thing that made us kids stare in wonder, was a picture of "The Largest Horse in the World." A man in the picture was reaching up, trying to touch the horse's mouth.

Grover cooked, I remember he cooked oatmeal.

Grover sang, I remember him singing "Corine, Corina, Where'd You Sleep Last Night?" Another song he sang was "She's Got Freckles On Her But She Is Pretty."

Grover taught. He taught me how to clean and sharpen tools, and put them

away when you're through with them. And would you believe he taught me to split kindling, and I was only six years old? That was pretty young to be trusted with an ax.

When we were setting fence posts he would sight off his arm down a row of posts. Watching him, I knew that it was important to get that row straight. He'd make a "puff, puff" noise with his lips, and I knew he was satisfied. Uncle Grover's personality is hard to put on paper. He made short negative statements, such as "Don't matter if you mix your peas with your puddin'. It's all going to the same place anyway." He was sort of like Grumpy in Snow White, only he was laughing instead of angry. He used to say, "Sure, book learning's a mighty fine thing, but the real learnin' comes from livin', and can't be learned from book." That might sound like he was not educated, but he was. He went

to the same school as Jim Thorpe.

Every family has a black sheep, but the Neddeau family had more than its share. Grover was a black sheep, but I never knew it. He had a drinking problem, but no one told me and I never saw him drunk. I guess the Neddeau family was down on Grover, but Mama's door and her pocketbook were always open. Her name was Olive (Neddeau) Miller. She was Grover's half sister.

Well, that's my part of the story. I'm turning the typewriter over to my little brother, David.

By DAVID MILLER

Jim is right — Grover is hard to explain. Most people who knew Grover, in the family and out, thought of him as a pain-in-the-ass boor or an obstinate, opinionated old fool. But I was born in 1936 and Grover lived with us, on and

Grover was a black sheep,  
but I never knew it.

## Two brothers remember

## Uncle Grover

Continued, next page

# POTAWATOMI SCRAPBOOK

Continued from previous page

off, for six years. Six years during which time he gave me my first feeding in the morning, then taught me to cook my own breakfast when I got old enough for grown-up food (4 years).

He spent his final years living in the back bedroom of Grandma's house, earning his keep by doing odd jobs (and with Grover, some of them could be very odd).

Yes, he had nervous mannerisms and ticks—a collection of noises, clicks, pops, air-puffs, sniffing, throat-clearing and shoe-shuffling that almost drove his mother (my grandmother) around the bend.

For instance, Grover couldn't walk through a room without touching both sides of the door jamb with his toes—then, on his progression through space, every piece of furniture in the room. However, it was against some Grover Rule to walk near something to touch it. One must get only within reach of a fully-extended leg like a ballet dancer doing a split to accomplish the necessary touch.

Aunt Amanda (his mother, my grandmother) was a seamstress, and when his pilgrim's progress took him through the sewing room, she wouldn't dare look at him, but would stop her sewing and stare grimly at the wall till he completed his journey.

Also, when Grover and I did dishes (he would dry), he dried each utensil, cup and vessel ever so carefully—held them to the light for a thorough examination, then placed the cup, or whatever, on the shelf. Then he picked it up for further inspection as if seeing something amiss. Then tap it two or three times on the shelf, the shelf walls, adjacent cups and glasses, a quick look—some more taps then give three or four pops of his lips by puffing air through them and put it into place. One final touch to move it microscopically into position then finally on to the next piece—for every piece we cleaned!

There were times when Grandma, listening from the next room would yell, "Get out, Grover. Put down everything where it is and just get out! I'll finish the dishes; you and David go do something outside!"

Grover's room at Grandma's was much as Jim described as when he lived in our house. The picture of the "Largest Horse in the World" was replaced by "Lone Wolf" and "End of the Trail," two pictures I saw in every Indian home I ever went to. Each pictured a high hill looking down on a lonely white-guy settler shack, dead of winter, exhaustion, and drooping heads. The wolf looking as if white-guy was using all the land, the Indian mounted with lance drooping looking exactly the same. The



*Grover Martel, born Oct. 10, 1892, died Aug. 20, 1972. This photo was probably taken in about 1933, when Grover was 40 years old. Grover was the son of Jerome Martel, whose mother was Sophia Willmette, the daughter of Archange Chevalier. Archange was the daughter of Potawatomi chief Francis Chevalier, the son of fur trader Louis Chevalier.*

pictures were drawn by the same artist who designed the Indian head/buffalo nickel.

I remember approaching Grover's room with mixed feelings of fear, a kind of awe, and exciting trespass. Everything was so neat it looked unlivin in, as if loving hands had arranged a room for a departed loved one and nothing was to be moved or touched again. The biggest mystery to me was the bureau. There were four white handkerchiefs spread ever so carefully over things laid out so neatly they made straight folds in the cloth.

After several months of speculation, I finally sneaked in and peeked under each kerchief just by lifting a corner and replacing it. It was quarters, dimes, nickles and pennies in soldierly rows, a hunter's pocket watch, a barlow knife, Bible, cuff links to a shirt I never saw him wear—the same odds and ends to be found on a person of his age and time, but tended, arranged, buttoned down as only Grover could do it. I was eaten with guilt, but triumphant as I left—no one could ever know I had been there.

Two days after (while removing Aunt Amanda's favorite crepe myrtle tree out of the front yard, where she wanted it, to the alley behind the hen house, where she didn't want it) he said, "Boy, you want to look around my room—ask, I got no secrets from my Pard, but

never assume." It took me a month to look him straight in the eye.

The whole time I knew him, Grover had the same four pairs of shoes. His Sunday-go-to-meeting shoes (only he never went), worn maybe twice a year, his slippers, his penny loafers (worn when he knew there was no work to be done), and his work boots (worn 340 days of the year). He would point out my poor, scuffed, all-purpose high tops and say, "Boy, those shoes can't be but a year old and they look like something the cat dragged in and the dog wouldn't eat. See these boots? I've worn these boots 25 years and will for 25 years more." And, indeed, for the 20 or more years I knew him, his shoes were not replaced, but were fixed with new heels and soles once a year on a last he kept in his work-

tal statistics. He got out of everyone he met their date of birth, weight, when born, whether the birth was hard or easy, etc.—and for every member of their family. If you innocently asked "What you been doing, Uncle Grover?" he would tell you, at least going back one week, of everyone he had met along with their vital statistics and the vital statistics of the person's family and friends until you began to think he as relating it in real time.

Later, however, this memory for people brought him respect as an oral historian used by several writers trying to dig out the history of Pottawatomie County.

I was told Grover died in 1972 in a backalley of downtown Shawnee, Oklahoma. I'm sure many people, most of all his sister, thought he had fallen off the wagon and succumbed to demon rum at last. But I know exactly what he was doing back there behind the buildings. Grover also collected the vital statistics of buildings. He would take me on a tour of the back alleys and show me where the old courthouse stood, how John A. Browns was once the local blacksmith's forge etc. The proof was there for anyone to see—in ancient cornerstones, still holding up the building, in old tools long forgotten and buried one foot beneath the topsoil. It was a marvelous adventure to walk the alleys with My Uncle Grover.

He is sorely missed by my brother and me. I hope I can get through my life with as much love and absence of malice as Grover Martell—my uncle.

First and foremost, Grover liked vi-



*Gilbert A. Neddeau And Wife Amanda (Toupin) Neddeau, Formerly Mrs. Jerome Martel (Grover's Mother And Step-Father)*

# HOW-NI-KAN

PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

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## Barrett warns of lack of guarantees under new system

Continued from page 1

better service. What I see is an all-out effort." She said she had agreed to be transferred to the Chickasaw payroll after Oct. 1 even though she could have remained on the federal payroll.

Withrow noted that the hospital is the first in the nation to be compacted to a tribe and speculated that it wouldn't be in the Chickasaws' "best interest to make things look bad."

Barrett asked if she could help convince the Chickasaws to commit not to lower services. He said he wanted a formal resolution because "tribal governments changed." While the Chickasaws "may be tremendously earnest right now," he said no one could be sure things will always be that way. All he wanted, he said, was specific language committing the Chickasaws to abide by federal law.

"I will ask for that," said Withrow. "I will ask that our people be served regardless."

Following a discussion that ranged from the future of Mission Hill Memorial Hospital to areas in which the Chickasaws had performed poorly in the past, Barrett asked the crowd to consider whether some of the rumors they evidently had heard made sense.

"The last thing in the world I would want to do would be

to endanger the health care opportunities of the Potawatomi people," he said, adding that if he ever did such a thing he would deserve to be removed. He repeated his misgivings about the course he said the Business Committee was forced to take.

"We didn't win that," he said. "We lost. We passed the resolution. I just pray that what they say they're going to do, they're going to do."

"I have faith in those people," said Mildred C. Flynn. "I go down there all the time." Flynn said she was very upset when she was first told that the Business Committee wasn't cooperating with the Chickasaws and thought she would lose her health care coverage.

"But do you have faith in the Chickasaws?" asked Barrett.

"Yes," she said.

"Good," said the chairman.

Withrow said that the Chickasaws planned to cut through some of the red tape when they take over. She said the real reason she came to the meeting was to tell Barrett and the other committee members they did the right thing in passing the resolution.

"I wish I could say that," replied Barrett. "We don't have any guarantees. I truly fear what's going to happen over the next 10 years." He



Chairman Barrett Discusses Hospital Situation With The Group Of Tribal Members Attending Business Committee Meeting

said the tribe was exploring other possibilities but those were in the future.

Johnny Flynn commented that some of the problem might have been avoided if all tribal members had been better informed. "What you should have held is a public forum," Flynn said.

Barrett asked the crowd whether they agreed with him. By a 12-3 show of hands, they indicated they didn't. He then asked former Tribal Chairman Leon Bruno, who was there with several members of his family, if he understood why the Business Committee delayed.

"I can see it now, John," replied Bruno.

Mildred Flynn complained about the number of 5-0 votes

on the Business Committee. Barrett replied that most items, such as bringing in new members under dependency, are not controversial and that on other matters, a 5-0 vote just indicates a compromise had been worked out before the

vote was taken.

Vice Chairman Linda Capps spoke out on that issue.

"Mrs. Flynn, if you would look at those 5-0 votes, you would find that most of those are things everybody would vote for," she said.

## BUSINESS COMMITTEE VISITORS

These are the people who signed in at the Business Committee meeting at which the Carl Albert Hospital in Ada was discussed:

Ruby Withrow, Carol Roberts, Mildred C. Flynn, Johnny P. Flynn, Dana Scheuerman, Rita Oravetz, Rene Belcher, Dean Nadeau, Dorothy M. Peavey, Kenneth L. Kinslow Sr., Frances Lackey, Thelma Wano Bateman, Stacey Smith, Barbara Brown, Roger Lackey, Veta Bruno, Leon Bruno and Sally Bruno Roberts.